CLAIMS LISTING:

1) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels, which comprises reacting lithium hydroxide and a titanium alkoxide at ~~elevated temperature~~ from 50 to 180 °C in a reaction mixture which forms water of reaction, wherein said nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels have a particle size from 1 to 10 nm.

2) (Original) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture which forms water of reaction comprises an alcohol or a glycol ether and a carboxylic acid.

3) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at ~~from 50 to 180 °C and~~ a pressure of from 0.1 to 3 bar.

4) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a molar ratio of titanium alkoxide to ~~the~~ a first component for the reaction forming water of reaction is from 0.8:1 to 50:1.

5) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein a molar ratio of the first component to ~~the~~ a second component for the reaction forming water of reaction is from 3:1 to 0.95:1.

6) (Previously Presented) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed claim 1, wherein the spinels are sintered at from 350 to 700 °C.

7) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particle size is from ~~1 to 200 nm~~ 2 to 8 nm.

8) (Currently Amended) A nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinel which ~~has a particle size of from 1 to 200 nm and~~ is prepared as claimed in claim 1.

9) (Cancelled)

10) (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising nanocrystalline lithium titanate spinels prepared as claimed in claim 1 as anode material.